

5600 -
CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

FLD
409

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

111419

COUNTRY Greece

DATE:

SUBJECT General Conditions in Northern Greece

INFO. 28 August 1947

DIST. 18
18 September 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

25X1A

ORIGIN

25X1X

Salonika

1. The economic crisis has, during the month of August become constantly intensified. The population lives in the midst of uneasiness regarding the future because of the uncertainty of the political situation in the face of international tension, and because, contrary to all hopes, it has been impossible to find a solution to the Andarte war and its international ramifications.
2. A tendency to conceal certain basic foods (macaroni, rice, cheese, sugar) and a rise in prices complete the misfortune. The situation of the working classes and the poor would be intolerable if it were not for vegetables and fruit, some of which are sold at low prices.
3. In addition, some 80 to 90,000 refugees have rushed from the Andarte-afflicted regions into the city of Salonika and its vicinity.
4. With the exception of vegetables and fruits, which were favored by the weather, the harvest of crops was poor this year. The causes were the Andarte war, the freeing of refugees, and both the lack of rain, and the damage from local floods, hail, and from the untimely late rains.
5. An average crop of 60-70 okes per stremma is estimated, a yield which hardly pays for the expense of seed, fertilizer, harvesting and threshing. The lack of rain prevented the seeding of cotton.
6. Under these conditions the position of the farmer is difficult, and most farmers are unable to repay their cultivation loans to the Agricultural Bank of Greece.

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET/CONTROL

U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

Document No. 004

NO CHANGE in Class.

DECLASSIFIED

Class. 10/1/78

Auth: 10/1/78

Date: 7/1/78

By: 10/1/78

This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 18 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

CONFIDENTIAL~~SECRET/CONTROL~~
U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

111419

- 2 -

7. Bidding was announced for the construction of two bridges in Nea Marmara and Nikiti in Chalcidice. These works were estimated at 100,000,000 drachmae.
8. The Chamber of Small Industry of Salonika is organizing a Pan-hellenic Convention of small industrialists during 1947. The sum of 4,000,000 drachmae was voted for organizational expenses.
9. During September a general census of every kind of enterprise, as well as of the persons employed has been scheduled. This census is intended to furnish evidence for the calculation of the economic resources of northern Greece. A census of the machines in the stocking factories, directed by a committee from the appropriate Ministry, conducted to determine the possibility of importing thread for each enterprise.

Eastern Macedonia-Western Thrace

10. The situation is worse in these regions. Crisis and lack of work are the rule. Those who remained in their homes and did not flee to the large cities, are troubled by the high cost of living and general uneasiness.
11. Army recruiting is carried on by personal invitation to individuals of every class and of advanced age.
12. A 9:30 P. M. curfew has been imposed in Xanthi and Komotini, and a 10:30 P. M. limit in Serres. Arrests of various individuals have occurred in Kavalla and Zanthi and elsewhere.
13. In Kavalla, about the middle of August, the Minister of Northern Greece and the Consul General of the United States attended a meeting with the authorities and with the tobacco merchants in order to increase the export of tobacco from the new crop to England. It was also decided that the American government should be requested to increase the quantities of Greek tobacco purchased now that the amount of tobacco purchased by the United States from Turkey has been tripled. They also examined the question of reducing the cost of Greek tobacco, so that it can compete favorably in foreign markets with lower priced Turkish and Bulgarian tobacco.
14. In the region from the Strymon to Evros there have been extraordinary yields of crops, particularly of corn, beans, and cotton.

Central-Western Macedonia

15. In this region heavier guerrilla activity has aggravated the situation. In Katerini curfew is at 9:30 P. M., and the same is true elsewhere in this region. With the exception of Edessa, the movies are not operating because of the curfew.

~~SECRET/CONTROL~~
U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY**CONFIDENTIAL**

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Act, 50 U.S.C. 31 and 32 as amended. Its transmission or the revelation of its content in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.